

VI.—On new Species of Batrachians from Australia.

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[Plate IV.]

IN a paper on new species of Snakes, I have frequently had occasion to mention a collection of reptiles sent by G. Krefft, Esq., Curator of the South Australian Museum at Sydney, to the International Exhibition. Although, in consequence of a want of the necessary literature, Mr. Krefft could not determine all the species collected by him, the collection nevertheless proved to be one of the most valuable contributions to zoology; the specimens are beautifully preserved; and all of them being collected by the exhibitor himself, we are thus supplied with most reliable information on the habitat of many species, particularly of the reptiles found in the neighbourhood of Sydney. We have seen that many of the species of snakes sent by Mr. Krefft have been known only for a very short period, and were previously not represented, or only very scantily, by specimens in the British Museum. We give in the present paper the descriptions of the new Batrachians, and intend to publish a similar report on the Saurians at a future time.

Limnodynastes Krefftii.

This species is very closely allied to *L. tasmaniensis*, from which it will be readily distinguished by the presence of only one tubercle on the metatarsus.

No large gland on the hinder extremity; skin of the back smooth; metatarsus with a single tubercle. Greenish-olive, spotted with blackish; the lower parts whitish.

In habit this Frog is entirely similar to *L. tasmaniensis*, a figure of which may be found in the 'Batrach. Salient.' pl. 2. fig. B; also the tongue, teeth, nasal openings, &c., are the same as in that species; but the carpus has only two tubercles below, and the metatarsus only one. A whitish vertebral line is scarcely indicated; the blackish spots on the back are more or less confluent into irregular longitudinal bands; a black band along the canthus rostralis, continued behind the eye, towards the shoulder; its postocular portion is edged with white below; legs with short blackish cross bands. Young specimens have a brighter coloration, their ground-colour being yellowish or yellowish-olive, and the black band behind the eye having a rose-coloured inferior margin.

An adult male and female, and several half-grown and young specimens, were in the collection. It appears to be a rather common species in the neighbourhood of Sydney.

Length of the body (male) 28 lines, of the hind leg 42 lines, of the fore leg 18 lines, of the fourth hind toe 13 lines.

Limnodynastes affinis.

This species also is very closely allied to *L. tasmaniensis* and *L. Krefftii*, but is distinguished by the following characters:—

No large gland on the hinder extremities; skin of the back smooth; carpus and metatarsus each with two tubercles. Brownish-olive, with a few brown blotches on the back; a whitish vertebral line is scarcely indicated; a brown streak along the canthus rostralis, continued behind the eye towards the shoulder, its hinder portion having a whitish inferior edge; lower parts uniform whitish.

A single female specimen, from the Clarence River, is in the collection.

Length of the body 15 lines, of the fore leg 8 lines, of the hind leg 21 lines, of the fourth toe 7 lines.

PLATYPECTRUM.

(Fam. Cystignathidæ.)

Fingers and toes tapering, free, the latter with a very narrow fringe of a web; maxillary teeth; vomerine teeth in a straight transverse line. The internal openings of the nostrils and of the eustachian tubes very small; tympanum covered by the skin. Tongue circular. No parotids. The transverse process of the sacral vertebra not dilated. Metatarsus with a flat sharp-edged spur (as in *Sphærotheca*).

This genus is distinct from *Limnodynastes*, which has only one or two small tubercles on the metatarsus.

Platyplectrum marmoratum. Pl. IV. fig. A.

Habit stout; snout as long as the eye, with the canthus rostralis very obtuse; nostril on the canthus rostralis, in the middle between the eye and end of the snout; upper parts with very small smooth tubercles; legs short. Olive, the upper parts marbled with brown; a narrow light cross band between the orbits, edged with brown in front and behind; the lower parts uniform whitish.

Length of the body 18 lines, of the fore leg 9 lines, of the hind leg 24 lines, of the fourth toe 7 lines, of the fifth 5 lines.

A single specimen, from the Clarence River, is in the collection; it is a male, with a wide slit on each side of the tongue for the vocal sac.

CRYPTOTIS.

(Fam. Asterophrydidæ.)

Fingers and toes tapering, free to the base; maxillary teeth;

a pair of long, tooth-like, erect processes at the symphysis of the lower jaw. The internal openings of the nostrils and of the eustachian tubes very small; tympanum small, entirely covered by the skin, situated behind and above the angle of the mouth. No parotids. The transverse process of the sacral vertebra slightly dilated. Vomerine teeth present; the upper eyelid without appendages.

Cryptotis brevis. Pl. IV. fig. B.

Habit stout; head rather large; snout of moderate extent, much longer than the eye, which is rather small; canthus rostralis very obtuse; the nostril is on the canthus rostralis, in the middle between the eye and end of the snout. The mandibular processes at the symphysis are not true teeth, but are covered with the mucous membrane, one line long, and slightly bent inwards; vomerine teeth in two very short oblique groups situated behind the inner nostrils. All the upper parts with numerous small and smooth tubercles. Legs rather short; carpus with two, metatarsus with one small tubercle. Grey, upper and lower parts marbled with brownish; a brown streak along the canthus rostralis. A whitish cross band between the eyes, bordered by a large brown spot behind. An opening on each side of the tongue for the vocal sac in the male.

Length of the body 20 lines, of the fore leg 10 lines; of the hind leg 26 lines, of the fourth toe 9 lines, of the fifth 7 lines.

A single specimen, from the Clarence River, is in the collection.

Hyla Krefftii. Pl. IV. fig. C.

Vomerine teeth in two short transverse groups, situated between the inner nostrils; snout rather short, rounded, a little longer than the eye; canthus rostralis obtuse, loreal region slightly concave. Tongue with a very small notch behind; the inner nostrils small; tympanum distinct, half as large as the eye. Back smooth; a very distinct fold across the chest. Fingers one-fourth webbed, with the disks of moderate size; toes broadly webbed. Reddish-olive, with a very broad dark dorsal band, commencing between the eyes and extending on to the vent. This band is much more distinct in young specimens than in adult ones.

Length of the body 22 lines, of the fore leg 13 lines, of the hind leg 33 lines, of the fourth toe 8 lines, of the fifth $6\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

Sydney.